

Stockbridge Mohican Commission

The contemporary community of Stockbridge wholeheartedly embraces the reunification of the Mohican tribe with its ancestral home. The Fenn Farm/Monument Mountain acquisition provides a bold start to a new era, and the opportunity to foster closer ties. We will endeavor to learn lessons from our ancestors, while approaching reconciliation with the advantage of a contemporary view of the past. We know our work has just begun.

We propose a six-person Commission, comprised of three locals appointed by the Stockbridge Select Board and three Mohicans appointed by the Tribal Council of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans. They would be tasked with working together to learn from and support each other, educate our constituents, foster community, and build a lasting friendship between our peoples.

We leave it up to the Commission to define its objectives and priorities, which may include, but are not limited to:

People/organizational interactions

- Student exchanges
- Town/Tribe collaboration
- Family hosting
- Sharing resources
- Project brainstorming, advocacy, management
- Broadening the effort within the region
- Social gatherings

Educational initiatives

- Advocacy to both individuals and institutions
- Cultural and ancestral issues
- Historical documentation/repository
- Permanent or temporary installations both indoors and outdoors
- Tours, storytelling, story maps

Land use and access

- Property management and stewardship
- Archaeological advocacy
- Historical and cultural access
- Burial grounds stewardship
- Sensitivity around locations

The leadership of the Town of Stockbridge and the Tribe can take this first step by naming a volunteer commission to coordinate and manage these efforts. Let's together work to build support in the community and our many educational, cultural, and conservation organizations. Let's together resolve to understand our past and build a bridge to a common future.